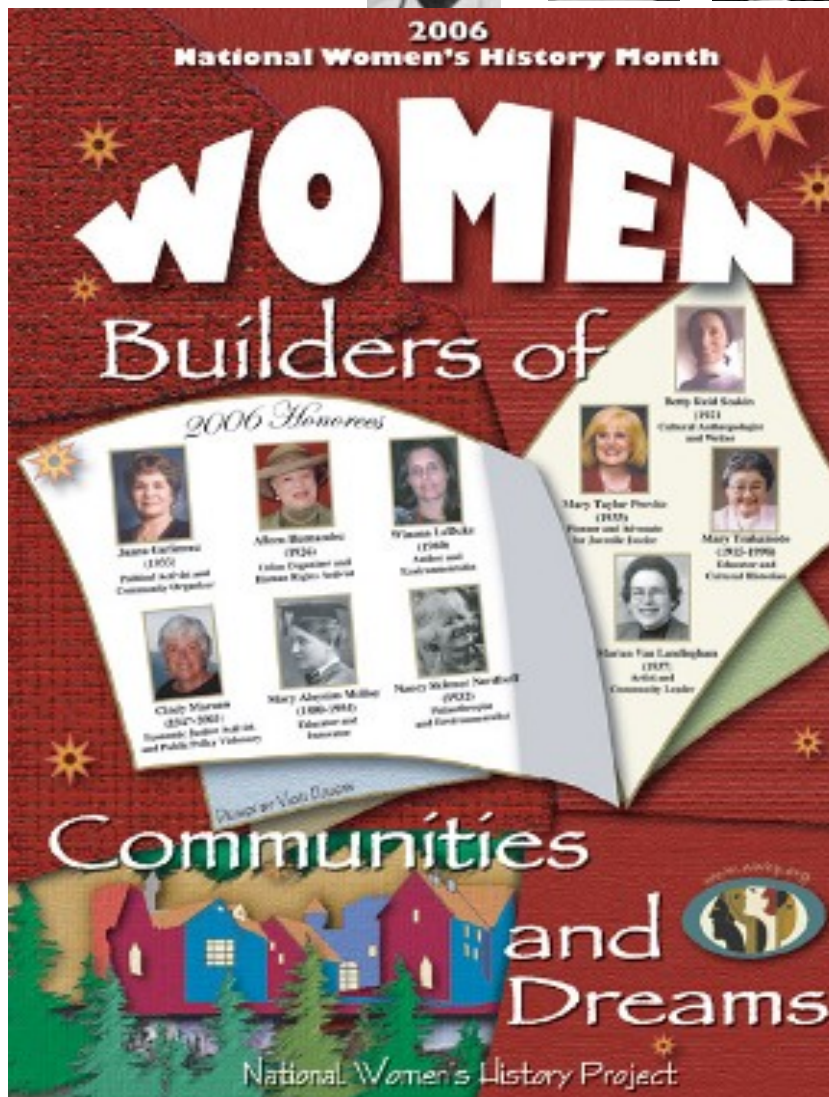


NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH MARCH 2006



Poster "Women: Builders of Communities and Dreams" by National Women's History Project

**THE INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION
U.S. EMBASSY JAKARTA**



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A STATEMENT BY SECRETARY RICE SALUTING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY ON MARCH 8



As we observe International Women's Day 2006, I am proud to honor the diverse contributions of women in advancing the common cause of freedom, justice, and equality. Over the past year, we have witnessed women of courage, compassion, strength, and hope playing transformative roles in their societies, inspiring the international community, and enriching our world.

Around the globe, women are making impressive political gains. In countries like Afghanistan, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, and throughout the broader Middle

East, women are contributing to and leading democratic change that cannot be stopped. Many have put their lives at risk to forge free and democratic societies for future generations. Today more women than ever before have the right to vote. More women are running for office, and many have been elected as leaders in their countries. In Liberia, Chile, and Germany, for the first time women have been elected to their country's highest office.

Even as we celebrate the fact that more women have taken their rightful place in society, we must also recognize that there is still much to be done. In too many parts of the world women still struggle for basic liberties under governments that tolerate discrimination, systematic abuse, exploitation, and violence against women. We must not accept women being sold into sexual slavery, terrorized by rape, denied an education, killed for so-called "honor crimes", or silenced for speaking out. We are resolved to remove the barriers to political, economic, and social empowerment so that women everywhere may freely chart their own way.

This week we honor brave women such as Aung San Suu Kyi, who remains under house arrest to Burma. Her efforts to bring democracy are a source of inspiration to women around the world. We must not forget that the advance of women's rights and the advance of human liberty go hand in hand. Around the world women of courage are standing up for freedom and human dignity. The United States stands with them. END TEXT.

NEW IIP ELECTRONIC PUBLICATION FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

"Women are the real architects of society."

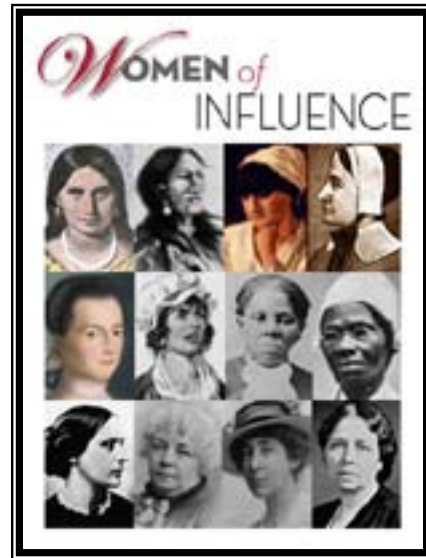
— *Writer and abolitionist*
Harriet Beecher Stowe

A new electronic publication from the State Department's Bureau of International Information Programs (IIP) chronicles how 12 American women broke new ground, some by championing equal rights for all and others by their accomplishments in fields such as government, literature and even war.

Women of Influence, released in time for the celebration of National Women's History Month in March and International Women's Day on March 8, covers significant periods in American history, from colonial times to the 20th century.

The 12 women are introduced in pairs. Short introductory essays provide historical background and are followed by their individual profiles, live links to other pertinent Web sites, and short reading lists. The six mini-chapters are:

- "Guiding Lights to a New World" (Sacagawea and Pocahontas),
- "The Colonial Era" (Anne Bradstreet and Anne Hutchinson),
- "Birth of a Nation" (Abigail Adams and Margaret Corbin),



"Breaking the Chains of Slavery"
(Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth),

• "A Woman's Right to Vote"
(Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony), and

• "A Role in Government" (Jeannette Rankin and Hattie Caraway).

The illustrations, in color and black and white, range from artists' renderings of the featured women (portraits and a stained glass window) to historical photographs, coins and newspaper clippings.

This online publication is available at:
<http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/womeninfln/>

FACTS FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH: MARCH 2006

In 1981, the U.S. Congress passed a resolution establishing National Women's History Week. The week was chosen to coincide with International Women's Day, March 8. In 1987, Congress expanded the week to a month. Every year since, Congress has passed a resolution for Women's History Month, and the U.S. president has issued a proclamation.

149.1 million

The number of females in the United States as of July 1, 2004. That exceeds the number of males (144.5 million). Males outnumbered females in every five-year-age group through the 35- to 39-age group. Starting with the 40- to 44-age group, women outnumbered men. At 85 and over, there were more than twice as many women as men.

<http://www.census.gov/popest/national/asrh/NC-EST2004-sa.html>

Motherhood

82.5 million

Estimated number of mothers of all ages in the United States. (From unpublished data.)

1.9 Average number of children that women ages 40 to 44 had given birth to as of 2004, down from 3.1 children in 1976, the year the Census Bureau began collecting such data.

<http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/fertility.html>

Education

31% percent of women ages 25 to 29 years who had attained a bachelor's degree or

higher in 2004, which exceeded that of men in this age range (26 percent).

Eighty-eight percent of women and 85 percent of men in this same age range had completed high school.

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/education/004214.html>

85.4% percent of women age 25 and older who had completed high school as of 2004. High school graduation rates for women continued to exceed those of men (84.8 percent).

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/education/004214.html>

25.4 million number of women age 25 and older with a bachelor's degree or more education in 2004, more than double the number 20 years earlier.

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/education/004214.html>

26% percent of women age 25 years and over who had obtained a bachelor's degree as of 2004. This rate was up nearly 7 percentage points from a decade earlier.

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/education/004214.html>

845,000 the projected number of bachelor's degrees that will be awarded to women in the 2005-06 school year; women also are projected to earn 350,000 master's degrees during this period. Women would, therefore, earn 59 percent of the bachelor's and 60 percent of the master's degrees awarded

during this school year.
<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2005/2005074.pdf>
See tables 27 and 28.

Businesses

6.5 million, the number of women-owned businesses in 2002, up 20 percent from 1997. (The increase among all businesses was 10 percent.) An estimated 916,768 such firms had paid employees, with receipts of \$804 billion.

\$940.8 billion, receipts for women-owned businesses in 2002, up 15 percent from 1997.

7.1 million, number of Americans employed by a women-owned firm in 2002.

117,069 number of women-owned firms with receipts of \$1 million or more.

7,240 number of women-owned firms with 100 or more employees, generating \$275 billion in gross receipts.

Nearly 1-in-3 women-owned firms operated in health care and social assistance, and other services such as personal services, and repair and maintenance. Women owned 72 percent of social assistance businesses and just over half of nursing and residential care facilities.

Wholesale and retail trade accounted for 38.3 percent of women-owned business revenue.

43% Rate of growth in the number of women-owned firms in Nevada between 1997 and 2002, which led the nation. New Hampshire, however, led the nation in the increase of sales and receipts of women-owned firms, at 53 percent.

Nearly 30%, the percentage of nonfarm businesses owned by women in 2002.

Earnings

\$31,223 - The median annual earnings of women ages 15 and older who worked full time, year-round in 2004. After adjusting for inflation, earnings for these women declined by 1 percent between 2003 and 2004.

77 cents - The amount women age 15 and older, who worked full time, year-round, earned for every \$1 their male counterparts earned in 2004. This amount is up from 76 cents for every dollar in 2003.

91 cents - The amount women in the District of Columbia, who worked full time, year-round, earned for every \$1 their male counterparts earned in 2004. D.C. led all states or state equivalents in this category.

\$56,585 - Median earnings of women working in computer and mathematical jobs, the highest for women among the 22 major occupational groups. Among these groups, women's earnings as a percentage of men's earnings were about 90 percent or higher in installation, maintenance and repair; community and social services; construction and extraction (such as those drilling for oil); and healthcare support.

Voting

65% - Percentage of women citizens who reported voting in the 2004 presidential election, higher than the 62 percent of their male counterparts who cast a ballot.

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/voting/004986.html>

Jobs

59% - Percent of women 16 and older who participated in the labor force in 2004. Men in this age range had a participation rate of 73 percent.

<http://www.bls.gov/cps/cpsaat2.pdf>

72 million - Number of women age 15 and older who worked in 2004. Of this number, 59 percent worked year-round, full time.

37% - Percent of women 16 and older who work in management, professional and related occupations, compared with 32 percent of men. (Source: American FactFinder)

20.4 million - Number of female workers in educational services and health care and social assistance industries. More women work in this industry group than in any other. (Source: American FactFinder)

Military

212,000 - Total number of active duty women in the military, as of Sept. 30, 2004. Of that total, 35,100 women were officers and 177,000 were enlisted. (Source: Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2006, Table 501.)

15% - Proportion of members of the armed forces who were women, as of Sept. 30, 2004. In 1950, women comprised fewer than 2 percent. (Source: Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2006, Table 501.)

1.7 million - The number of military veterans who are women.

(Source: Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2006, Table 510.)

Marriage

63 million - Number of married women (including those who are separated or have an absent spouse). There are 54 million unmarried (widowed, divorced or never married) women.

<http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/hh-fam/cps2004.html>

53% - Percent of unmarried and single Americans who are women.

<http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/hh-fam/cps2004.html>

5.6 million - Number of stay-at-home mothers nationwide.

<http://www.census.gov/population/socdemo/hh-fam/shp1.pdf>

Computers

84% - Proportion of women who used a computer at home in 2003, 2 percentage points higher than the corresponding proportion for men. This reverses the computer use “gender gap” exhibited during the 1980s and 1990s. Women’s Internet use at home also exceeded men’s (83 percent versus 81 percent). Release/www/releases/archives/miscellaneous/005863.html>

Sports and Recreation

2.9 million - Number of females who participated in high school athletic programs in the 2003-04 school year. In the 1972-73 school year, only 817,073 females were members of a high school athletic team.

(Source: Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2006, Table 1237.)

162,752 - Number of women who participated in an NCAA sport in 2003-04. (Source: Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2006, Table 1239.)

83% - Among those who purchased aerobic shoes in 2003, the proportion who were women. Women also comprised a large majority (61 percent) of those who bought walking shoes. (Source: Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2006, Table 1242.) and 1228.)

57% - Percentage of women who participated in gardening at least once in the last 12 months, compared with 37 percent of men. Women were also much more likely than men to have done charity work (32 percent versus 26 percent), attended arts and crafts fairs (39 percent versus 27 percent) and read literature (55 percent versus 38 percent). (Source: Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2006, Tables 1226, 1227

LINKS TO ONLINE RESOURCES

Organizations

National Collaborative for Women's History Sites
(<http://ncwhs.oah.org/>)

Operating from the Alice Paul Institute, the National Collaborative for Women's History sites "supports and promotes the preservation and interpretation of sites and locales that bear witness to women's participation in American life." Information on over thirty historical sites as well as news and calendars of events is available on this site.

National First Ladies' Library
(<http://www.firstladies.org/>)

Based in Canton, Ohio, this facility contains archives devoted to educating everyone from children to serious scholars on the contributions of the First Ladies and other important women in history. In addition to its physical holdings, the library provides an electronic virtual collection available to people in the United States and abroad.

The National Women's Hall of Fame
(<http://www.greatwomen.org/>)

In 1969, a group of women and men of Seneca Falls created the National Women's Hall of Fame, believing that the contribution of American women deserved a permanent home in the small village where it all began. The Hall is home to exhibits, artifacts of historical interest, a research library and office.

National Women's History Museum
(<http://www.nmwh.org/>)

Founded in 1996, the National Women's History Museum is a nonpartisan, nonprofit educational institution dedicated to revealing, presenting, and celebrating the rich and diverse history of women's contributions that have shaped American culture and society.

The National Women's History Project
(<http://www.nwhp.org/>)

In 1980, the National Women's History Project (NWHP) was founded in Santa Rosa, California, to broadcast women's historical achievements. The NWHP started by leading a coalition that successfully lobbied Congress to

designate March as National Women's History Month, now celebrated across the country. Today, the NWHM is known nationally as the only clearinghouse providing information and training in multicultural women's history for educators, community organizations, and parents -- for anyone wanting to expand their understanding of women contributions to U. S. history. There are separate sections offering information on Events; Honorees; Program Ideas; and Themes.

Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture

(<http://scriptorium.lib.duke.edu/women/>)

Part of Duke University's Rare Book, Manuscript, Special Collections Library, women's manuscripts represent a substantial portion of the library's collections. The material at the Sallie Bingham Center "ranges from plantation diaries to women's suffrage documents, from a Phyllis Wheatley letter to Anne Tyler manuscripts, from the records of local Women's Temperance Union to the papers of contemporary feminist activities."

Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America

(<http://www.radcliffe.edu/schles/>)

The Arthur and Elizabeth Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America collects manuscripts, books, and other materials essential for understanding women's lives and activities in the United States. A non-circulating library open to the public free of charge, it draws researchers and students from around the world. Its unique holdings include thousands of records of organizations and individuals, in addition to photographs, books, periodicals, ephemera, oral histories, and

audiovisual materials. It is also home to one of the world's most significant culinary books collections, and it maintains the archives of Radcliffe College.

Government Agencies

Census Bureau, March 2006

Women's History Month: Facts for Features

(http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/006088.html)

Federal Resources for Educational Excellence (FREE)

Women's History Month Resources

(<http://www.ed.gov/free/w-history.html>)

Library of Congress

American Women: A Gateway for the Study of Women's History and Culture in the United States

(<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/awhhtml/>)

National Park Service

Women's History Month Feature, Places Where Women Made History

(<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/feature/wom/index.htm>)

Smithsonian Institution

Women's History Month Schedule of Events

(<http://www.smithsonianeducation.org/>)

Smithsonian Institution

Women's History Teaching Resources

(http://www.smithsonianeducation.org/educators/resource_library/women_resources.html)

Universities

Evergreen State College
Women's History Month Resources
(<http://www.evergreen.edu/library/govdocs/hotopics/womenshistory/index.html>)

Michigan State University
H-Net: Discussing Women's History
(<http://www.h-net.org/~women/>)

Middle Tennessee State University
American Women's History: A Research Guide
(<http://www.mtsu.edu/~kmiddlet/history/women.html>)

SUNY at Binghamton
Women and Social Movements in the United States, 1775-2000
(<http://womhist.binghamton.edu/>)

University of Wisconsin Library
Women's History Resources
(<http://www.library.wisc.edu/libraries/WomensStudies/hist.htm>)

Additional Resources

About.com
Women's History
(<http://womenshistory.about.com/>)

Discovery Education
Women of the Century
(<http://school.discovery.com/schooladventures/womenofthecentury/>)

Fordham University
Department of History, Internet
Women's History Sourcebook
(<http://www.fordham.edu/>)

Women's History Month Resources
Gale Group Databases
(http://www.galegroup.com/free_resources/whm/index.htm)

Women's History Month
History Channel Exhibits
(<http://www.historychannel.com/exhibits/womenhist/>)

InfoPlease.com
The History of Women's History Month
(<http://www.infoplease.com/spot/womenshistory1.html>)

Internet Public Library
Women's History
(<http://www.ipl.org/div/subject/browse/soc50.90.90/>)

New York Times
Timeline Special
(<http://www.nytimes.com/library/magazine/millennium/m2/wolf-timeline.html>)

Poynter.org
Women's History Month
(<http://poynter.org/column.asp?id=49&aid=1142>)